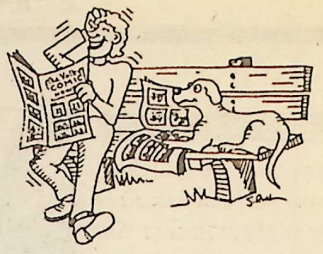
The Valley COMIC N·E·W·S

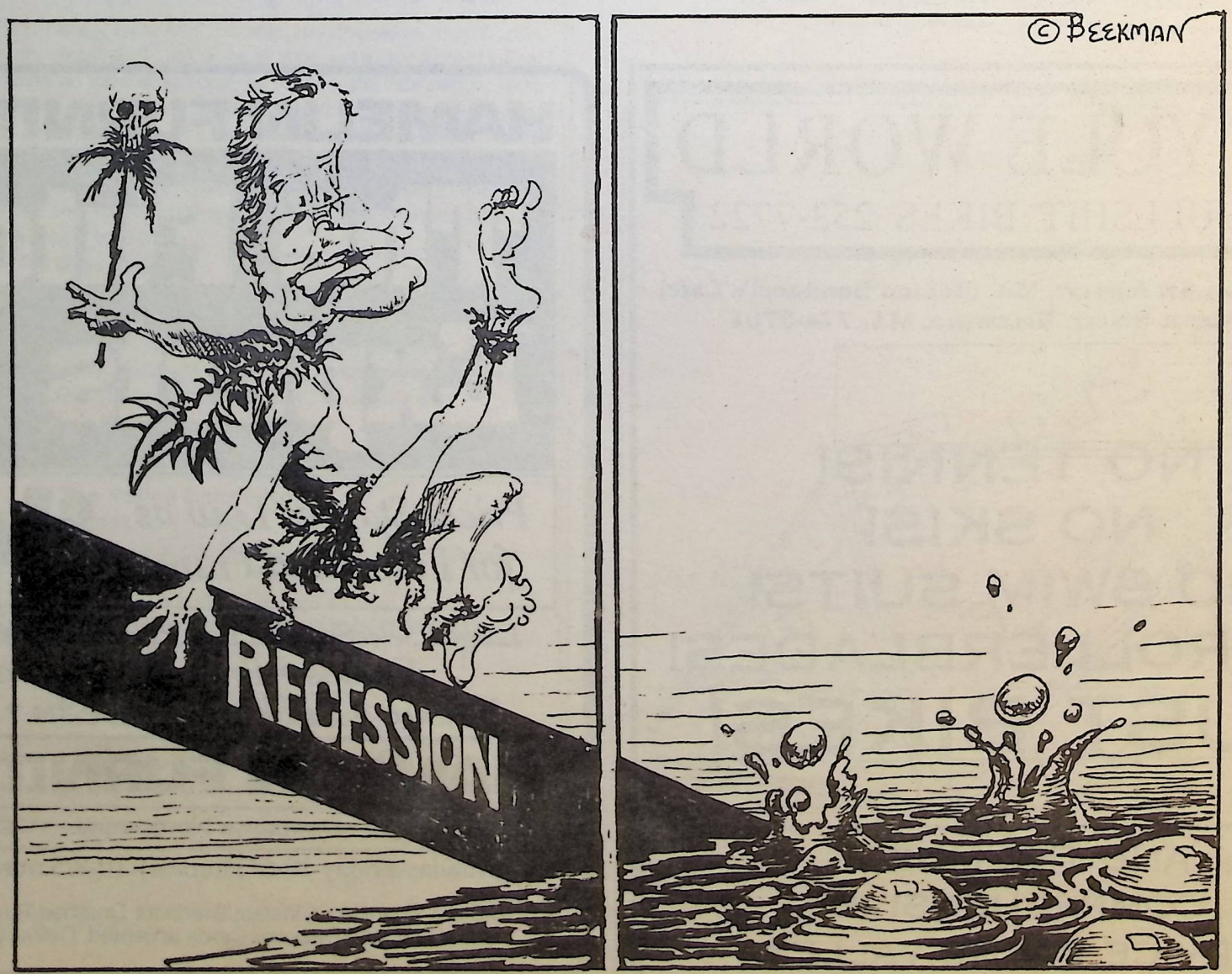


ISSUE #44
August 15, 1991

FREE

FEATURES: The Far Side, Doonesbury, Calvin & Hobbes, Views of the World, Take It or Leave it, The Brass and Fern, Mr. Shut Up and I'll Tell You ™, Earthweek, Izzy Gesell's *Humor Me*, President Bill, & Joe Bob Briggs.

STORIES:
October Surprise Party
A November Surprise?
Gaza Strip Tease
Legal Smatters
Other Stuff



VOODOO ECONOMICS

DEEP DOODOO ECONOMICS

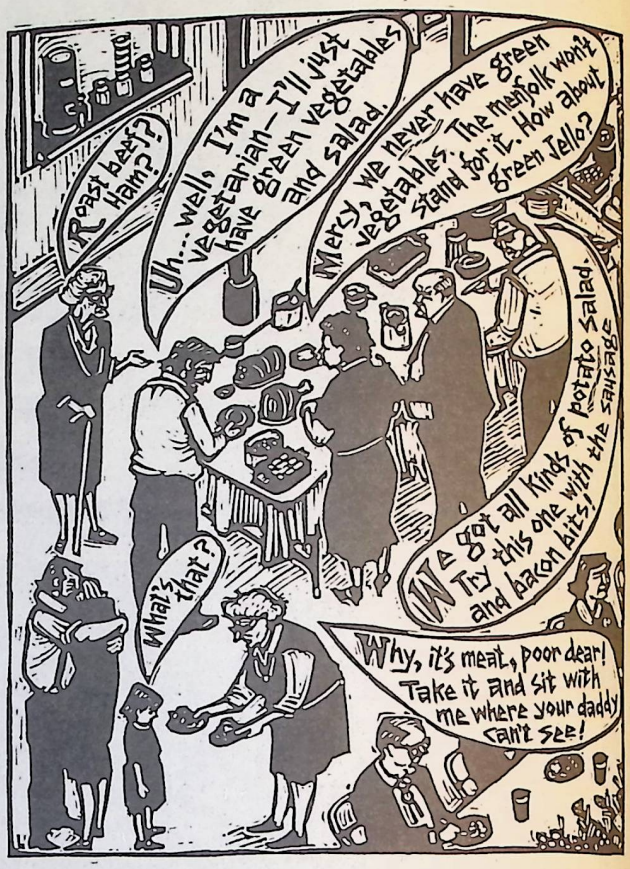
PRESIDENT BILL BY WILLIAM L. BROWN

PRESIDENT BILL

My mother-in-law died unexpectedly in her sleep after a short illness. She never even saw the get-well card the children mailed her. As I mourned with my wife's family and their friends, I was racked with dread. Which of us would be next? Whose immediate future held a fatal cell mutation, a misstep on the stairs, a careening automobile, or a viral infection? The next bedtime story, goodnight kiss, or casual wave farewell could be the last. There's no joke here, friends, except the big one on those of us who think we get to keep anybody or anything.

PRESIDENT BILL

Tragically, it was my mother-in-law's funeral that brought the first family to my wife Mary's home town in northeastern Ohio. I was still glad, however, for the chance to spend a little time in America's heartland. There I could observe the simple yet colorful lives of the people who live beyond the Beltway. Though the occasion was sad, there was much comfort—especially for Mary—in the time-worn traditions of her parent's church and community. Personally, I was pleased and honored to be included in the funeral rituals and traditions.



"President Bill" appears in *President Bill, a Graphic Epic*, a book published by Andrews and McMeel. This book is now available at Faces, Food For Thought Books, and the Beyond Words bookstore. Get caught up on the story. It's worth it.

BICYCLE WORLD
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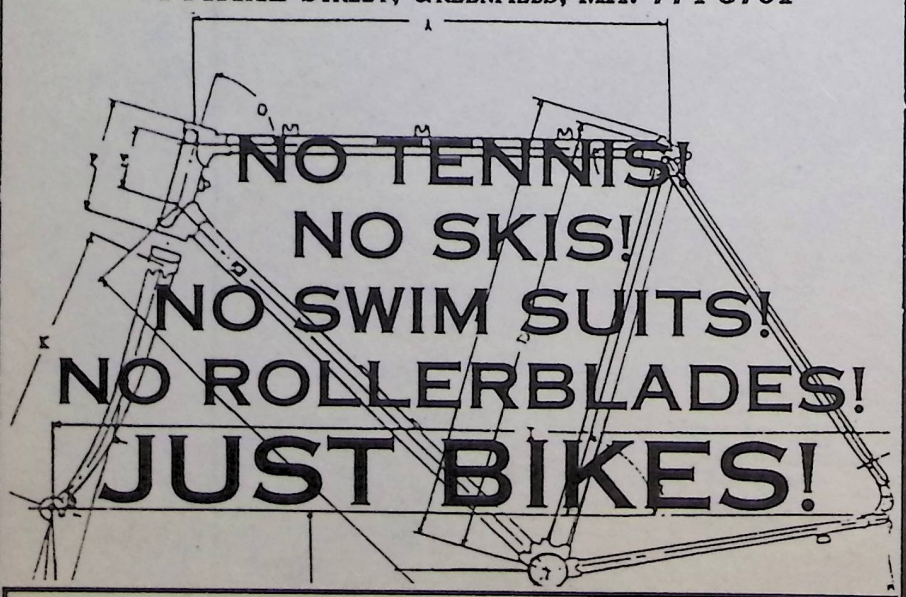

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PAGE THREE

This June we published a Special Issue called *Thanks For Not Leaving!* I was half-way tempted to call this one ...*But I'm Outta Here!*, because that is the case. I was in Boston this past Saturday taking my GRE's which, for those of you in the Valley *not* involved in higher education (both of you), is the test you must take to get into Graduate School. (If $\sqrt{2}/(x+b)^2 = y$ * the population of Omaha, then how many zithers does George have to juggle before ANTEATER : PERSPIRE as FINGER : WISCONSIN?) It seems that my lovely wife Mary has accepted a post at *The* Ohio State University, and one of the perks is that her husband gets to get his Master's degree for nothin'. So I am going to the land of Taco Bells and bombed out abortion clinics to get my Master of Fine Arts in Directing. It's a wonderful opportunity, so I'm afraid ... I'm Outta Here!

What will happen to The Valley Comic News, you may well ask? Well, Izzy Gesell has agreed to take good care of it for the nonce, a fellow by the name of Norman LaFoe is now our Sales Manager, and the Lovely LeAnne Novick will continue on as an Associate Publisher. It will still be the same Comic News, only more so. I think the paper is the best publication in the Valley and it needs your support.

I shall miss this place. I have spent the majority of my life in Massachusetts, (I think that the main objective of those, like myself, who are raised in New Jersey is to spend enough of their life somewhere else, in order that they may say finally, "Oh yes, I'm from Massachusetts") and the thought of Ohio fills me with some dread, I must admit. I mean I watched *Family Ties*, I know what it's like. But I hear they have cable out there and Columbus has its own comic newspaper, so maybe it won't be so bad. We have a natural snobbery here in Western Mass about places with no hills, but I'm sure they have the same snobbery about places that elected Mike Dukakis.

If there is any one aspect I have noticed about the Valley it is that there are a large number of concerned and intelligent people, many of whom are diligently pursuing one cause or another. These people are right-minded, politically correct and aglow with the aura of righteousness. To these people, I leave this parting piece of advice.

Lighten Up!!!!

To the rest of you, thanks. Thanks for your help, encouragement, and patience. As I ride into the sunset, please don't think of me as gone, just a little more out there than before. Let us have no tears, no remorse, no bands at the train station; we're driving. Come, come little one. I had no idea that you were so emotional, but I must go now. You must be strong for me. Where's that brave little smile that I know so well. I must go. The lights are growing dim, is that you? I cannot see the light, but I must go into the light. Oh Scarlet, Ashley loves you so much. (cough, cough). I could have been a contender, but let it be. The rest is silence. Put out the light, then put out the cat. Twas beauty killed the beast, and ratings.

I made it Ma! Top of the world!

And with that, I say Good Night Amherst, Good-bye Northampton and Hello Columbus. I'm Outta Here.

(A hush falls over the crowd, from the back an embarrassed titter. Someone hesitantly starts clapping softly, and is quickly wrestled to the ground. Soon people start drifting away, with derisive laughter occasionally piercing the air.

Fade to black.)

Phil Kilbourne

The Valley Comic News
P.O. Box 658, Amherst, MA 01004 413-586-2274
Managing Editor, Associate Publisher & Graduate Student • Phil Kilbourne
Heir Apparent • Izzy Gesell
Founder & Co-Publisher • David Hooks
Ad sales • The lovely Lee Anne Novick & the so-so Norman LaFoe
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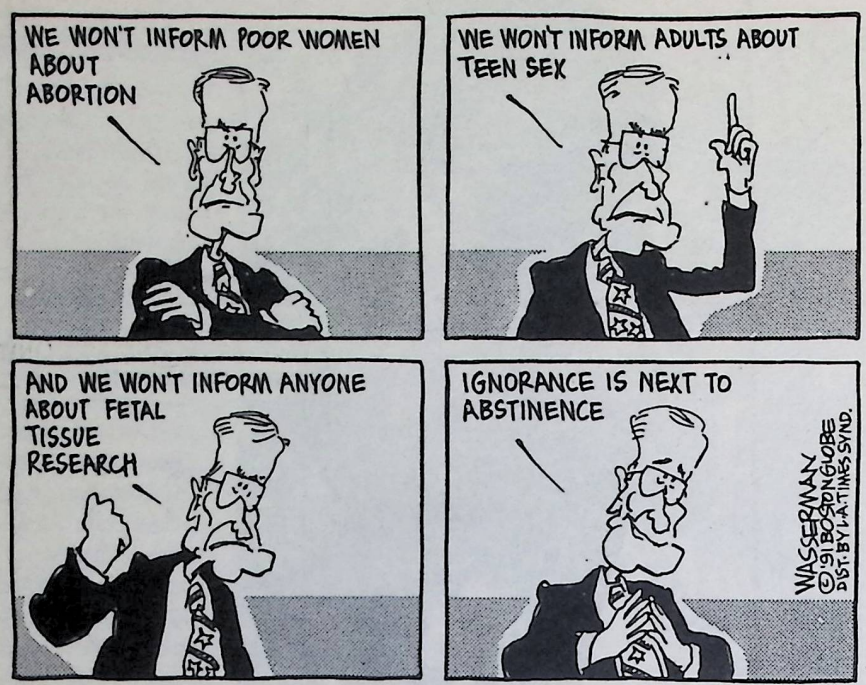
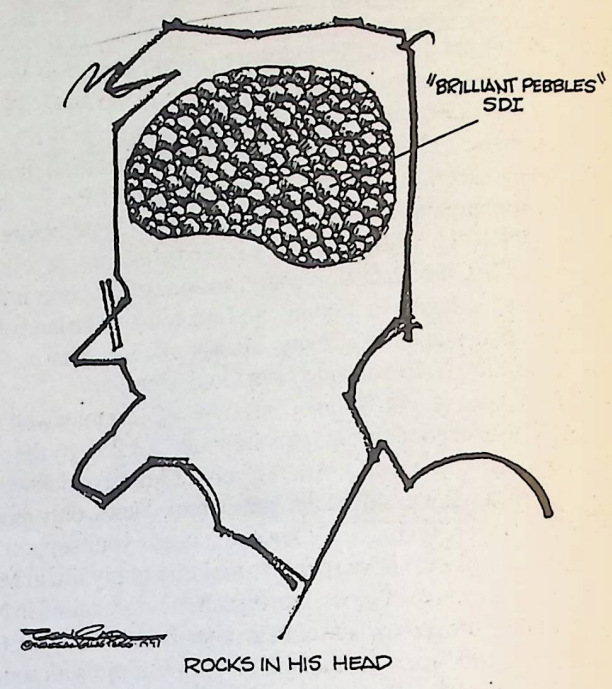
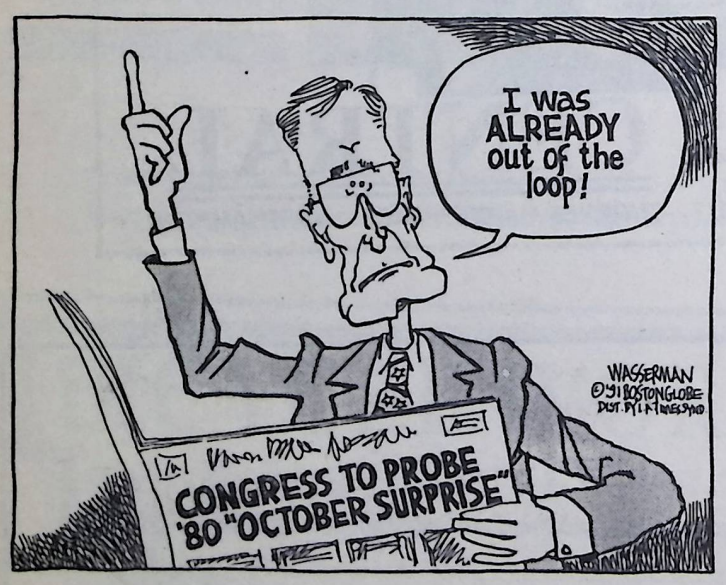
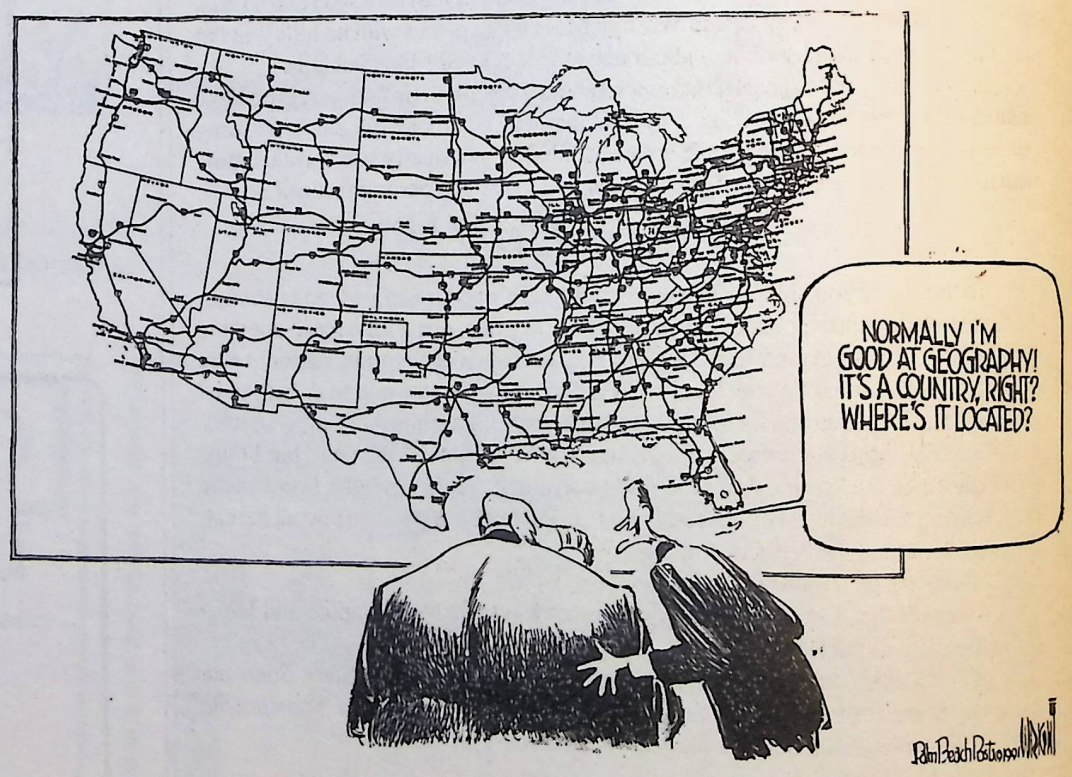
STUFF THAT'S COOL FOR BACK TO SCHOOL
Faces
Main Street Northampton

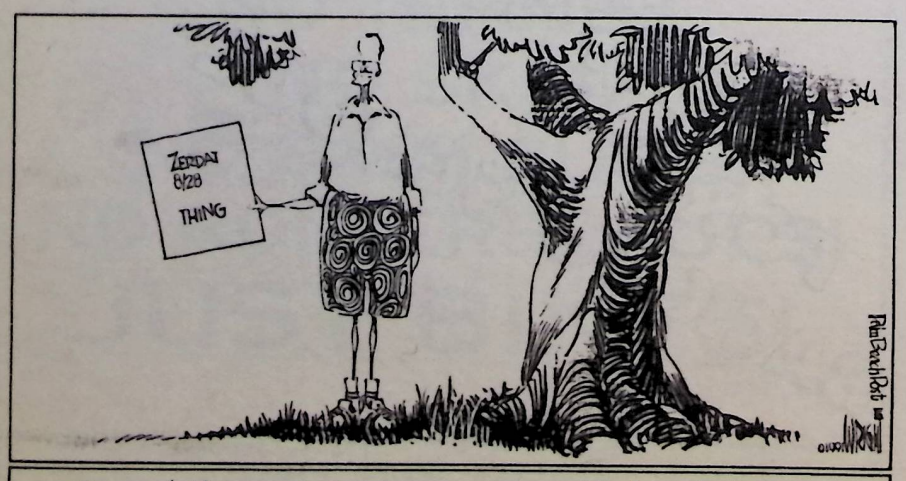
OCTOBER SURPRISE PARTY



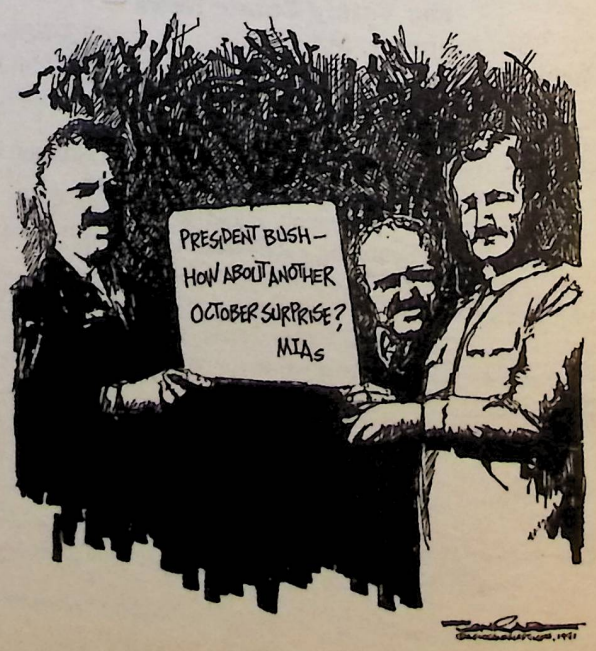




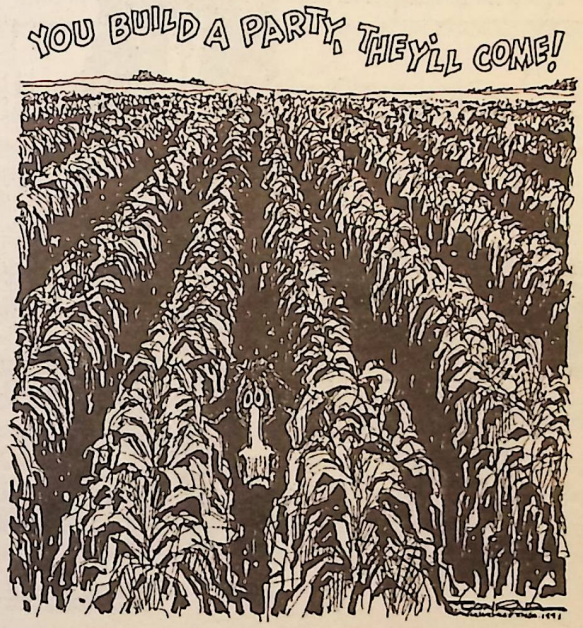


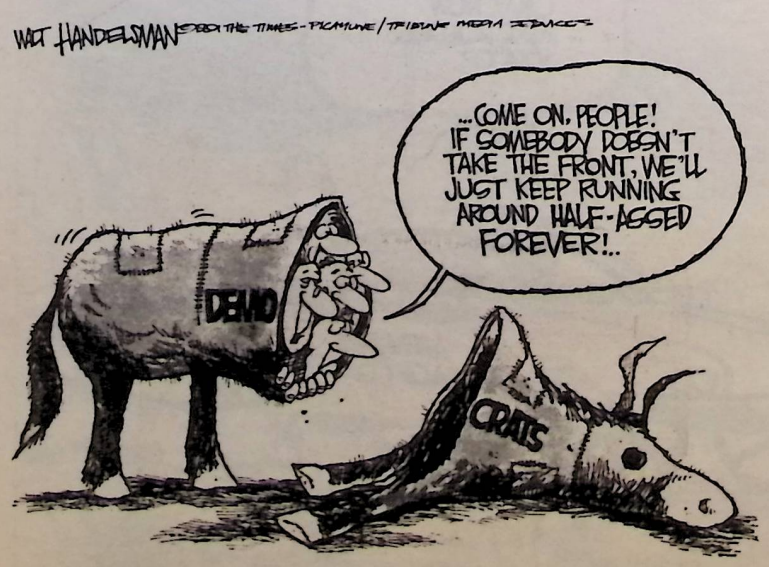


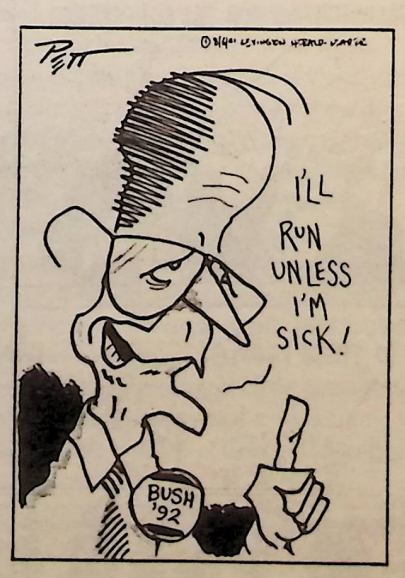
This man holding a card with a strange message on it has been identified by excited relatives as George Herbert Walker Bush, a U.S. president who refuses to come home. The photograph was smuggled out of New Hebrides by a Dutch soap carver. Intelligence analysts doubt its authenticity.



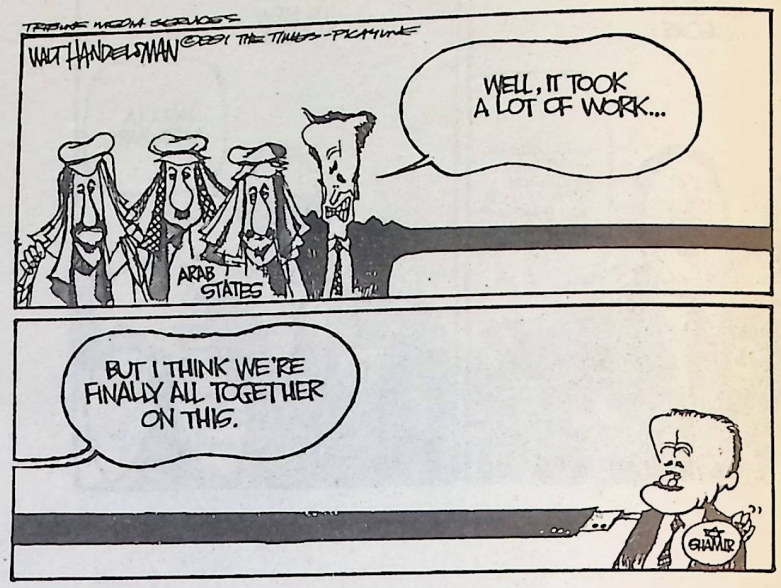
A November Surprise?

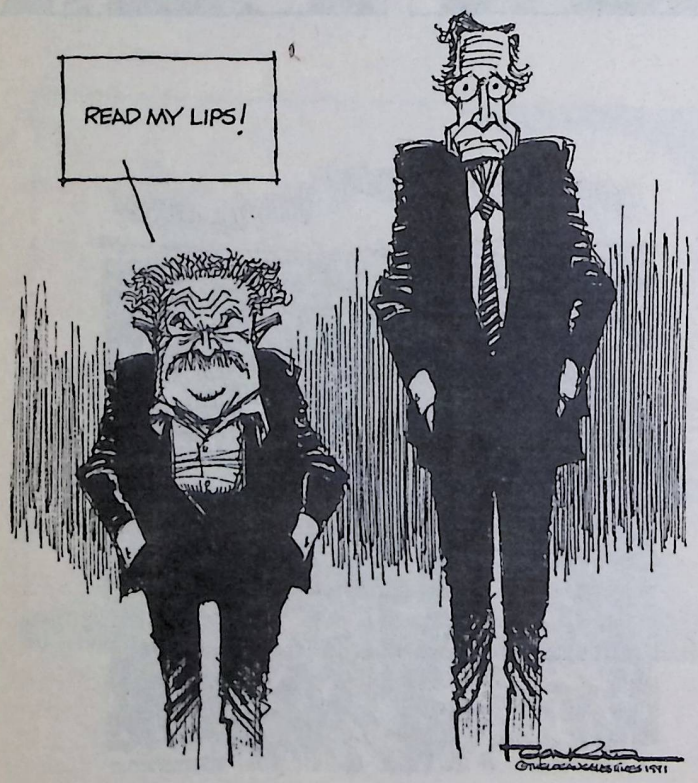


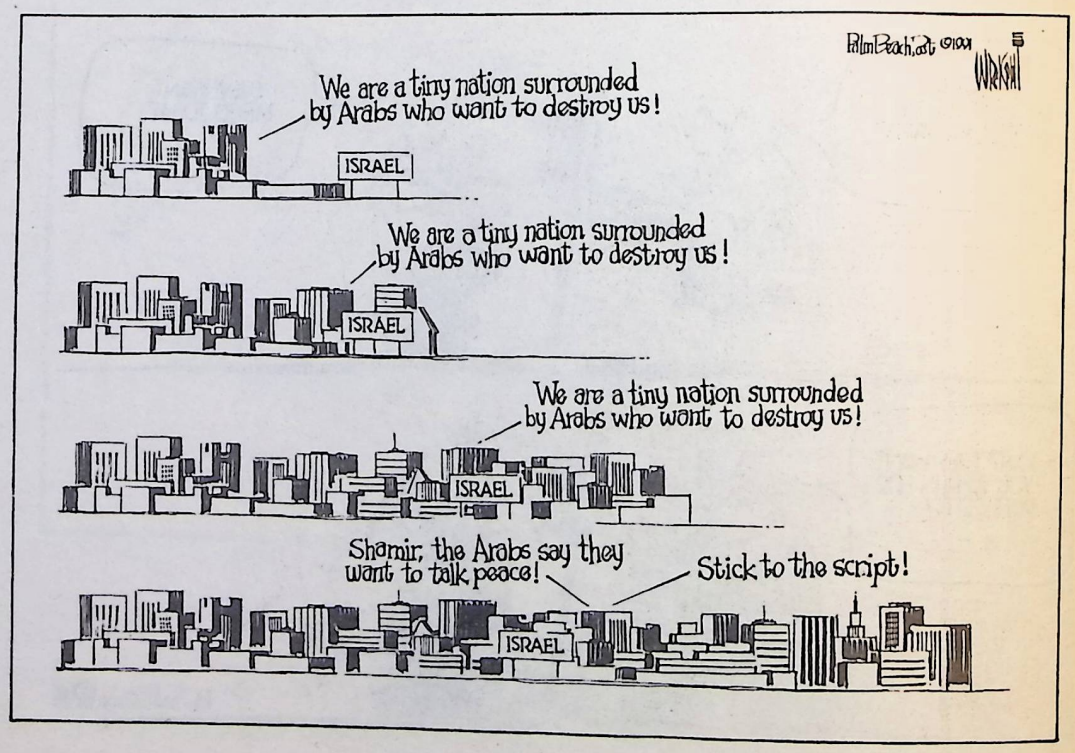


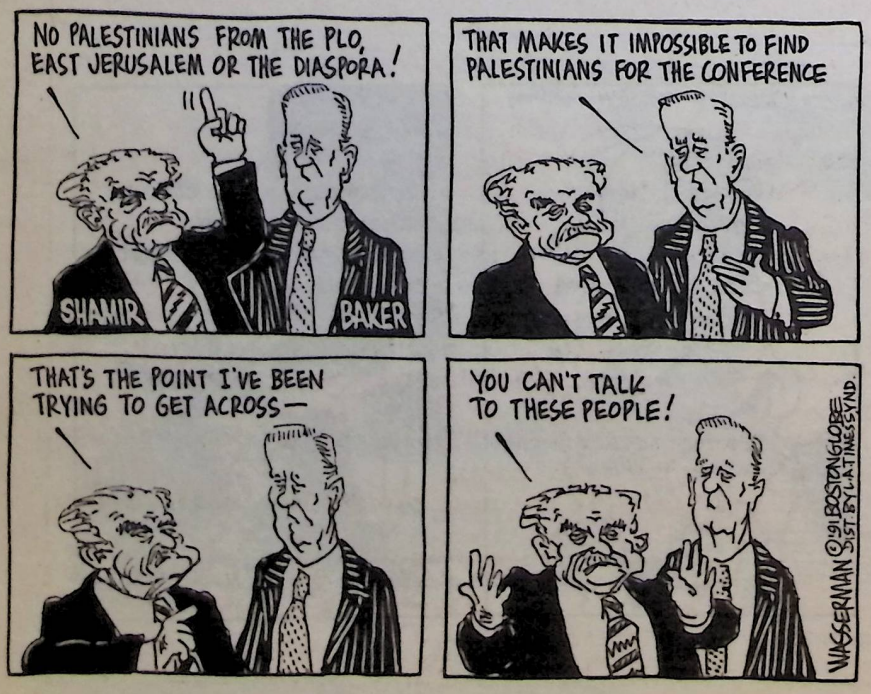


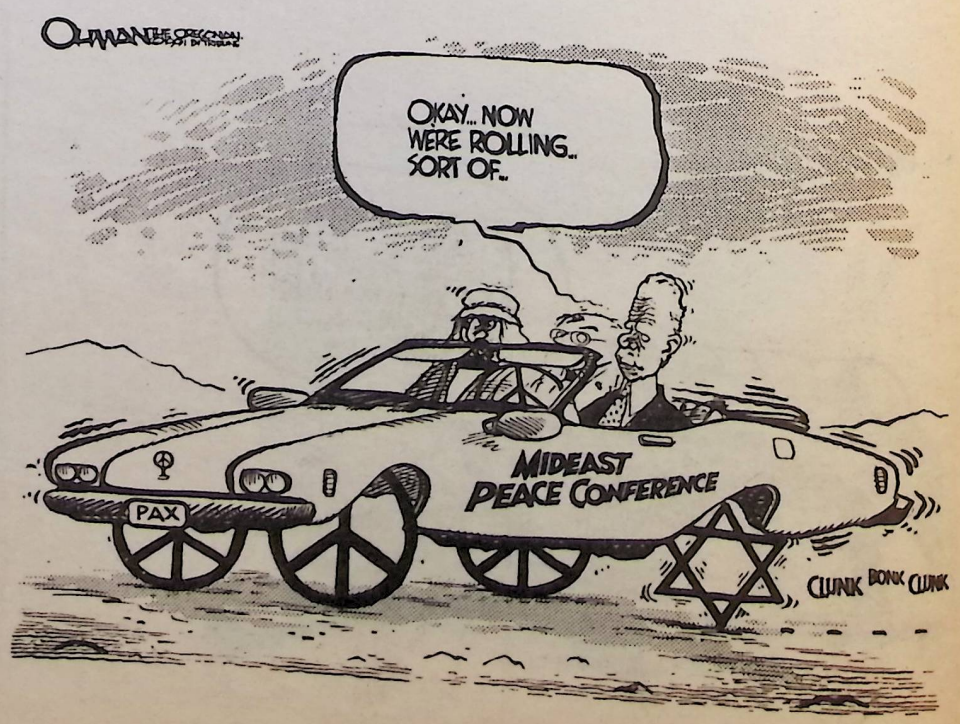
GAZA STRIP TEASE

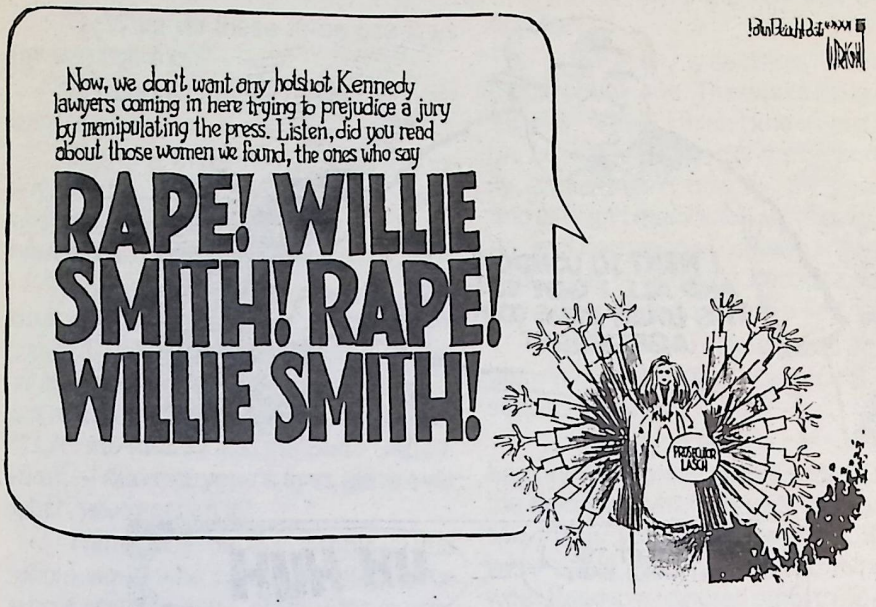


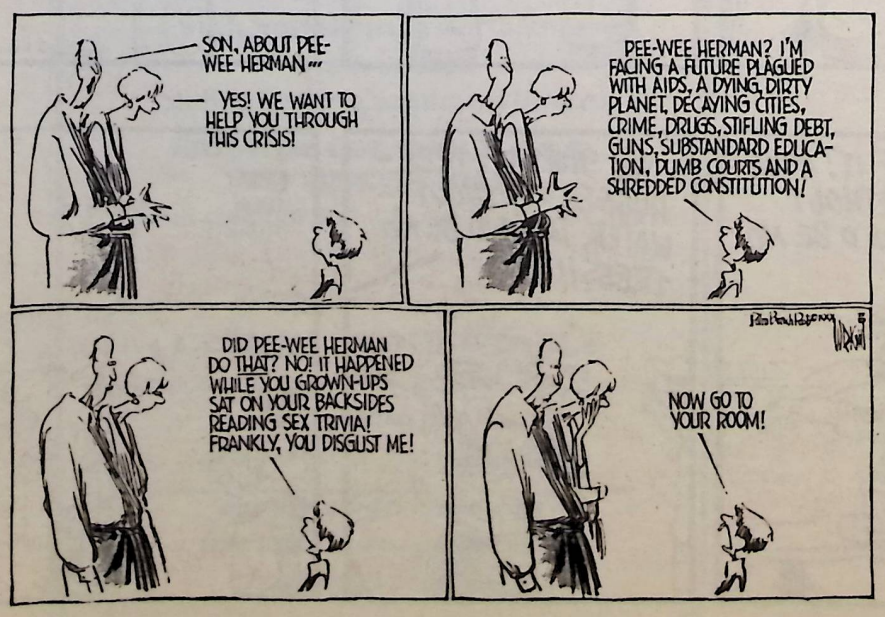












Mr. Shut Up and I'll Tell You

He may not be accurate, but at least he's positive.

Dear Mr. Shut Up and I'll Tell You ™,

Can you tell me how a bill is passed through Congress? B.B. Columbus, OH

Dear BB,

There are those who say that it is easier to pass a kidney stone than it is a bill through Congress, but here goes.

Getting a bill made into law is a long and complicated process. Say you wanted to make it a crime to sell unwashed underwear on Sundays. You present it to the House Majority leader, who then performs a series of obscure rituals which determine the validity of your proposal. These include running it up a flagpole, sacrificing a Junior Senator and making sure the President is going to veto the measure. Once he/she has ascertained that there's not a liberal's chance in Utah that it will become law, she/he/it hands it over to a House Committee for study.

A House Committee is a body of peers who mull over any and all pieces of potential legislation, adding on to them whatever will aid in their re-election in the Fall. These "amendments" are specifically designed to obscure the original intent of the bill, and so you may find that your fairly simple 23 page bill has now grown to 4,586 pages. Within the confines of the bill there will be such additions as a provision to make the Grasshopper the National Drink, funding for a sex study of the Heated Wood Owl, a condemnation of naked breasts on Cinemax, and the establishment of the Jesse Helms lookalike contest.

Once the House Committee has okayed your bill, fifteen Congressional Pages with trusses lug the thing to a Senate Committee who tack on their "amendments." A Senate Committee is the same as a House Committee except there are fewer members, which means they talk longer and add many more amendments. They send the bill (now 15,875 pages) back to the house, which adds some more pages. They ship the thing back and forth between various offices, until they get bored or a staff assistant is crushed under the load, whichever comes first.

Someone loses the bill in the Lobby, where it is attacked by the Lobbyists. These are aggressively obnoxious people from things called "special interests." They have lots of money and can get you tickets to the next arrest of Marion Barry.

The bill then sits on Ted Kennedy's desk for five months until he spills a drink on it. Everybody forgets what has been added and the original 23 page bill is sent to the floor for debate.

A congressional debate is the finest example of democracy in action, which makes one yearn for the good old days of King George. The debate consists mainly of an old man pounding a gavel, many jokes about Newt Gingrich's hair and expressed concern over the Heated Wood Owl. A vote is then taken, and once all are sure that the President will veto the bill, it will be passed, only three votes shy of an over-ride. Then Congress votes itself a pay raise, and everyone goes on a junket to study the problem of support undergarments in Tahiti.

Dear Mr. Shut Up and I'll Tell You ™,

What exactly are those odd jobs one sees during the closing credits in movie? T.H. Dallas, TX

Dear TH,

I take it you don't mean those titles like *Assistant to Mr. Costner - Jennifer Fluffernutter*. We all know what *that* means don't we? Wink. Wink.

Movies employ a goodly number of Union yahoos who really have no purpose other than to make the credits long enough to play some stupid Bruce Hornsby song that is making a desperate bid for an Oscar. (What ever happened to the good old days when a movie song was integral to the plot, like *There's Got to Be a Morning After*?) Some of these jobs however, actually have a purpose.

Best Boy - Made popular during the films of Randolph Scott. Ask him what's a "best boy".

Gaffer - This is the person assigned to spot errors in the continuity of the film, and send these errors to *Premiere* magazine. A special award went to the gaffer who pointed out that in *Die Hard 2: Die Harder*, Bruce Willis supposedly at Dulles Airport in D.C. is calling from a payphone clearly marked "Pacific Bell". Willis was so impressed he hired the guy for *Hudson Hawk*, one of the biggest gaffs of all time.

Key Grip - Made popular during the filming of *Wild Geese*, which had so many drunk English actors that they had to hire someone to unlock their doors.

Foley - Some members of Congress use pressure to get relatives hired. House Speaker Tom Foley is no different.

If you have a question for Mr. Shut-up and I'll Tell You™, keep it to yourself! If you can't, you might try sending in your question, (in simple language, obviously), care of this paper. He can't guarantee he'll answer, but then again, he doesn't care.

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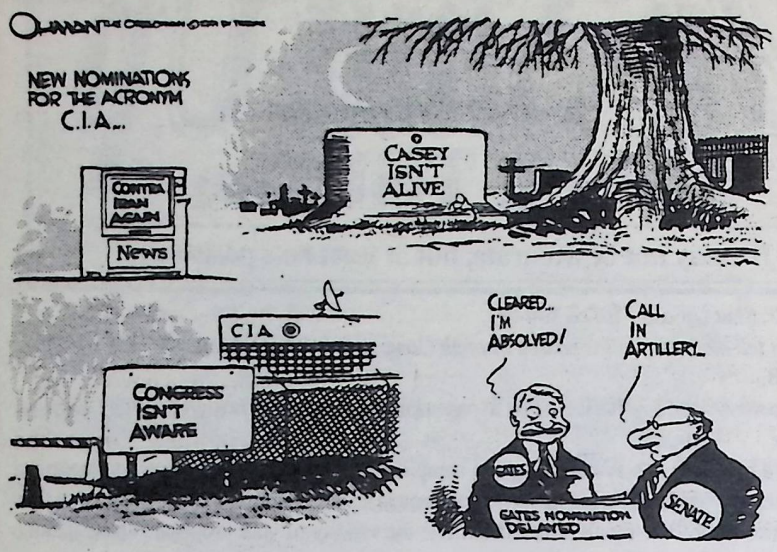
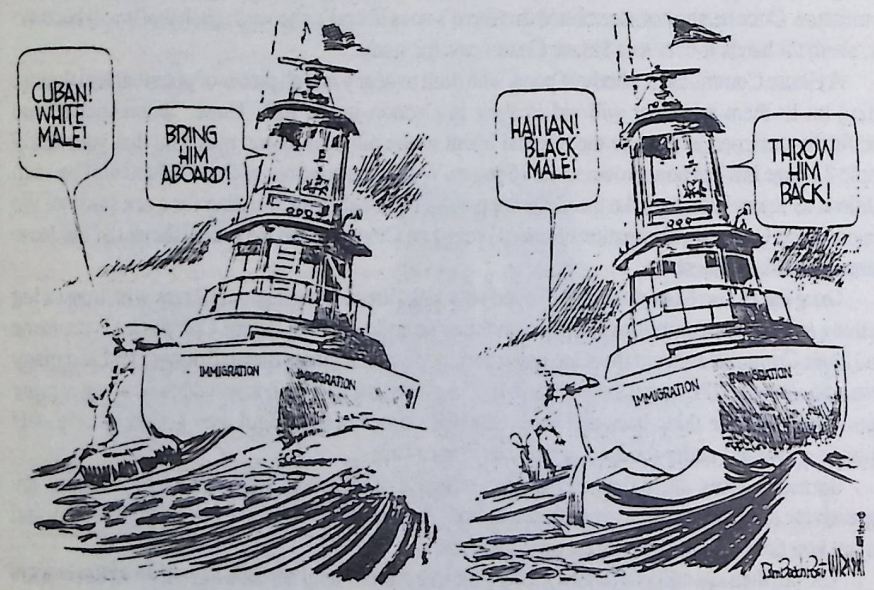
OTHER STUFF





THE BRASS & FERN
By Steve Riehm

Joe Bob Briggs

Teapot Dome.

Tammany Hall.

Iran-Contra.

Q. What do these three scandals have in common?

A. Nobody can ever remember what they're about.

The only thing they're good for, really, is to be used in SAT questions—just obscure enough to separate the college-bound men from the sniveling bambinos.

And you may be wondering: How does such a thing happen? How do we have a political scandal that lasts *six years,* involves two Presidents, uncovers actual crimes among members of the C.I.A., the military and the State Department — and everyone's eyes glaze over when you mention it?

There may be five people in the whole world who can even tell you the whole story of Iran-Contra. One is special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh (and even he probably has to refer to notes). One is probably a reporter somewhere who's writing a book on the subject. And there are three guys who just haven't been indicted yet.

How do this many people, from this many different places, tell lies this successfully for this long?

Easy. I don't think a single one of them I believes he's lying.

It's not politics that's changed. It's the definition of what exactly is a lie.

So we have the ten Iran-Contra non-lies:

1. "It wasn't my decision." This is the most popular one. The whole thing goes like this: "Yeah, I think I know what went on, but it wasn't directly my responsibility, and it wasn't *directly* my decision, and so I can't *really* know what was going on, and so I choose to keep my mouth shut. This is not a lie because I don't know enough to be telling a lie."

I don't think I really have to explain this one, do I? It's really popular with second-graders.

2. "Once you let one cat out of the bag, there's no end to this stuff." This is the theory by which you withhold one or two things you know, because, if you were to tell those one or two things, it would lead to a hundred other things that would jeopardize the safety of the country. Just exactly how it would jeopardize the safety of the country, you're not sure, but it *would.* Or at least it might.

3. "There are a lot of gray areas in these laws passed in the seventies." After the Watergate scandal, and again after the C.I.A.'s plot to assassinate Castro was exposed, we passed a bunch of ethics laws. The great thing about them is that there are *no* gray areas in them. They simply say, "You can't do this, and you can't do that, and if there's any doubt in your mind, then the answer is 'No way, Jose.' If there's *still* a doubt in your mind, you have to ask a Congressional committee before proceeding." These are the most *un*-gray laws ever written. They're actually the first laws ever passed saying the C.I.A. and military can't get involved in dirty tricks. The problem is, after they were passed, the C.I.A. and the military continued to say "Now what exactly does *this* part of the law mean? We don't understand it." Have you ever seen a really guilty burglar on the witness stand. "I'm sorry, I don't understand that question. Could you repeat that question, please? Are you asking me if I did it *knowingly* or if I did it?" And he *believes* that he's being truthful. He believes, in fact, that if you don't ask him the questions in *exactly* the right way, then he's innocent.

4. "I haven't been able to locate any evidence of that." This is the adult equivalent of "My cat ate my homework."

5. "This was *never discussed* in my presence." (Said with great self-righteousness.) Conspiracies are almost always never discussed. When the lowest of low-lifes conspire to do something, they never *directly* discuss it. Drug dealers don't even use the word "drugs".

6. "I was under oath to protect national secrets, and I believed that these were covered by that oath." To make yourself believe this, you go home every night and say to your wife, "Honey, there are things I can't tell you." That makes you feel important and—more important — *legal.* You *wanted* to tell your wife, but you didn't. So later on, when the committee wants to know what you didn't tell your wife, how could you possibly tell *them* what you wouldn't tell your wife?

7. "I was not apprised of that operation." This means that thousands of pages of memos crossed your desk, *referring* to "that operation," but you were smart enough not to ask anybody what it was about. This is a popular lie in Russia, home of the best bureaucrats in the world, where they've learned "If you never ask, you'll never *be* asked."

8. "These Congressional committees are full of politicians, trying to get votes, who have no interest in the truth." Sometimes this is at least partly true. Unfortunately for someone using this particular lie, these Congressional committees also have subpoena power, oversight authority, and the legal right to find out any damn thing they wanna find out. It's the way we set it up.

9. "These media guys always make a mountain out of a molehill." Sometimes this is also true. Unfortunately, under the law, most of the "molehills" are already felonies.

10. "I don't recall." Yes, almost twenty years later, there are still a few who will use this phrase popularized by the immortal H.R. Haldeman. This time, though, we have professional liars who have *trained* themselves *not to recall.* Ever since Watergate, as soon as one of these guys gets remotely close to a crime, they shred documents in advance, they hold up their hand (reminding colleagues not to tell them *too much),* they tear up their notes, they make sure nothing is too close to their desk — so that when the time comes, they can listen patiently to the question and say, with a clear conscience, "I don't recall."

The government, you see, becomes more like the Mafia every day.

"The Cosmic Wisdom of Joe Bob Briggs" is now available from Random House. To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get free junk in the mail and his world-famous "We Are the Weird" newsletter, write P.O. Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax: 214-368-2301.

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

Every cockroach that dies a natural death does so on its back.

◆

No, humans aren't the oniy animals that sneeze, just the only ones that sneeze with their mouths open.

◆

All right, it's an anteater if you say so, but it eats more termites than ants.

◆

Q. A fish's tale is a rudder— vertical—a whale's is a hydrofoil —horizontal. Any reason for the difference? A. Maybe. A fish has more need to zigzag from predators. A whale has more need to go up— for air—and down. That's the theory

◆

Q. What sort of design was on the first coins ever minted? A. Face-to-face heads of a bull and lion. About 640 B.C. in Lydia, part of what's now Turkey. So reports a coin expert.

Was none other than Hippocrates who first put into the record that fat people didn't tend to live as long as thin people.

◆

"Pasta" is just the itaiian word for "dough," that's all.

◆

Sound of running water makes beavers nervous. They want to dam it, evidentiy. Farm beavers start projects around drain pipes, leaking field faucets, old culverts. Amazing, this phenomenon called genetic memory. Some theorists say it's the thing that compels certain children to take things apart, or to chase small animals, or to beat on drums.

◆

That phrase "hocus pocus" started out as "hocus pocus dominocus," and was, in the beginning, a mocking imitation of the holy Incantations of the Catholic Church's Latin liturgy. So say the lexicologists.

Certain edgy dogs are more likely to attack if stared at. Or so says a canine expert.

◆

It also takes nine months to make a vanilla bean.

◆

Q. What's the root meaning of "Judo"? A. "Gentle push." Or, elaborated, "Pull when pushed, push when pulled."

◆

What you and I call a "ladybug" is known in Iraq as the "Water Delivery Man's Daughter."

◆

Somebody asked Thomas Edison if he ever got any exercise, and he said, "I only use my body to carry my brain around."

◆

Termites are deaf. But they can't stand vibration. One exterminator says termites won't linger long in places where motors shake the woodwork.

Earthworms like ice cream.

◆

English doctors in the 1800s treated toothaches by filling cavities with mashed ladybugs. It worked. To a degree. Medicos say what you think about greatly influences pain. Patients thought less about aches than about mouthfuls of mashed bugs.

◆

You know what koalas eat besides eucalyptus leaves? Gravel.

◆

Q. Did you ever find out what "SHAZAM" from the Captain MaNel comics stands for? A. Solomon, Hercules, Atlas, Zeus, Achilles and Mercury.

◆

In horseshoes, the shoe's opening legally can't be more than three and a half inches wide. Did I tell you the game of horseshoes started out as a barnyard imitation of the discus throw?

A 400-year-old mushroom? You bet. Such there be.

◆

Some Arabian physicians of old thought body heat could cure rheumatism in a woman. They came up with a curious treatment. To generate said heat, they directed that the skirt of the female sufferer be snatched off in public. This, they're said to have thought, would burn with shame.

◆

Some people wash their currency. Take it home, and put it into little nylon bags or some such, and throw it into washing machines. It's their secret. Experts blame "obsessive-compulsive disorder." Might mention, others can't do that. Can't even get it home. Have to spend it on trinkets. That, too, can be obsessive compulsive behavior. And it can ruin your day at the track.

◆

Q. When did the original Morris the Cat die? A. In 1978. At age 17.

◆

Q. Where'd macadamia nuts originate? A. Eastern Australia. Hawaii imported the trees as ornamentals in the late 1800s.

◆

Will future soldiers fight in tanks? Some military experts say no. Anti-tank weapons are becoming so effective, they say, that no sort of tank will work.

◆

If it's an incandescent bulb, it blows 90 percent of its energy on heat, 10 percent on light. Our Chief Prognosticator figures the incandescent bulb is on the way out.

◆

Porcupines have orange teeth.

◆

That legal ground for divorce most often recorded in the Soviet Union is "Loss of Affection."

Most popular pet snake is the King. Most common pet name for same is Elvis.

◆

The law of a small New Hampshire township is quite specific about this: When you and your wife are riding one horse on Sunday, you cannot legally kiss her, but she can legally kiss you.

◆

Q. How long can a hippo walk underwater without coming up for air? A. About six minutes.

◆

Most of the world's devout worship in temples without seats.

◆

The surface of the world bulges most particularly in four places: At Ireland, off Peru, south of Africa and near New Guinea. To give some credence to that old phrase "the four corners of the earth."

◆

Consider those people described by the mental medicos as chronically "fearful, anxious and lonely." A Toronto psychiatrist contends they most probably as children were made to feel guilty. By parents, relatives, caetakers, whomever was around long enough to bend them. The old "warped in childhood" explanations aren't as popular as once they were. But that "guilty" analysis still hangs in there.

◆

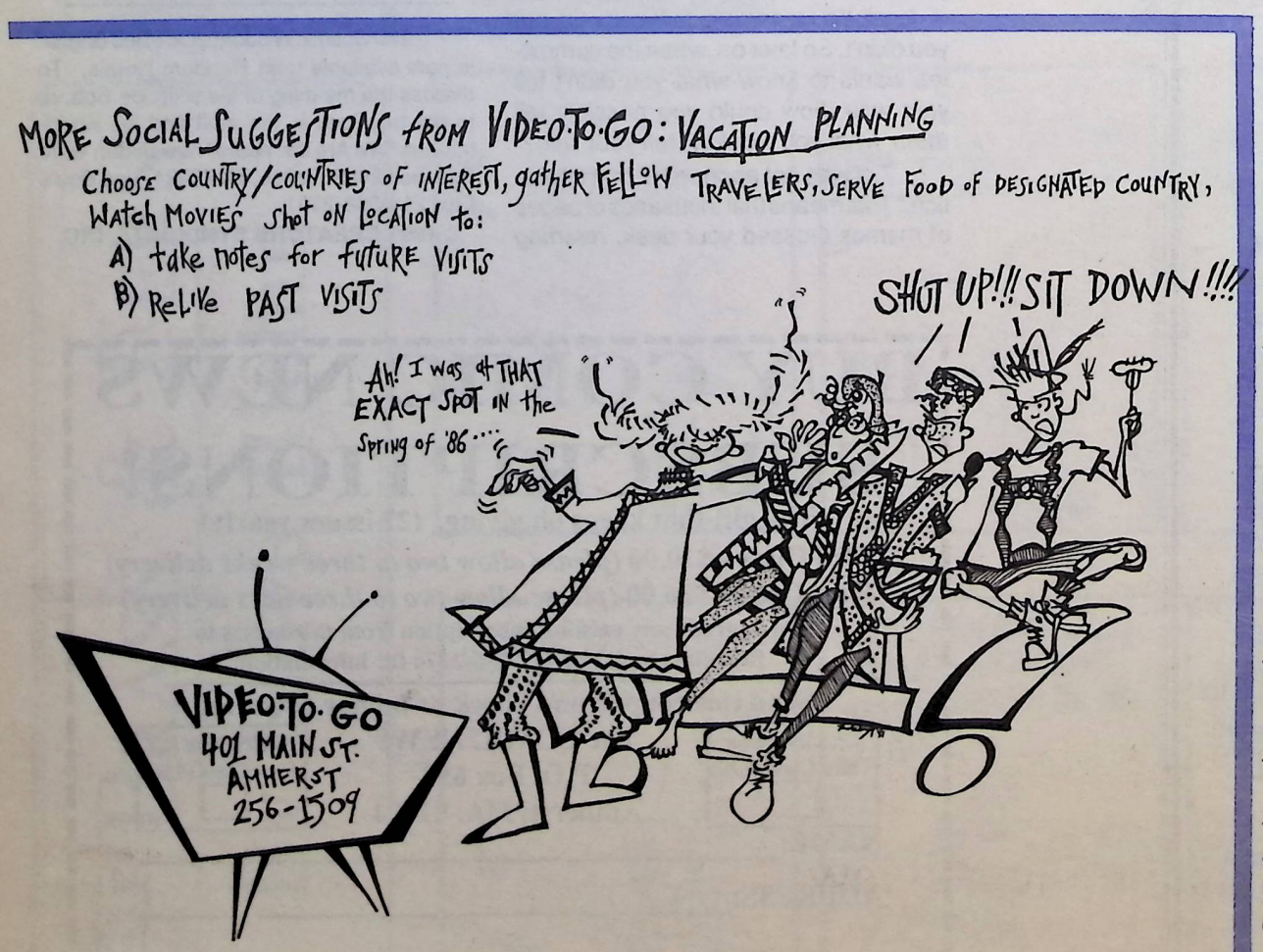
Stand on the lowest point in Colorado and you'll still be higher than the highest point in 18 other states.

◆

If it didn't make a noise like a drum, that drumfish would be called something else, presumablv.

◆

Q. For the few of us who still don't know what a "Perfect Game" in baseball is, please explain. A. A pitcher's outing wherein only 27 batters go the plate, three up, three down, in each of nine innings.



VIEWS OF THE WORLD

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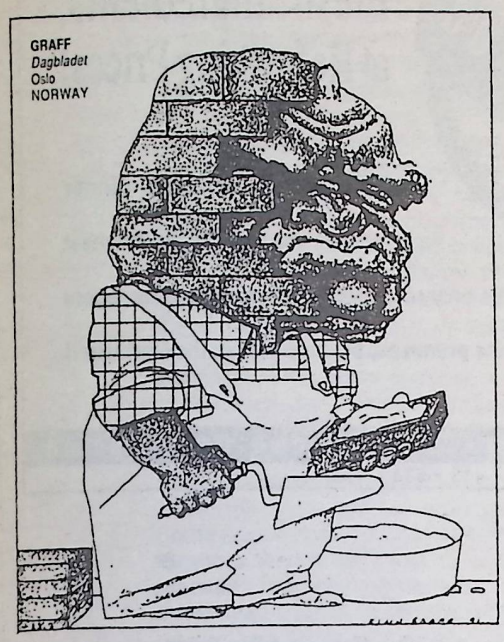

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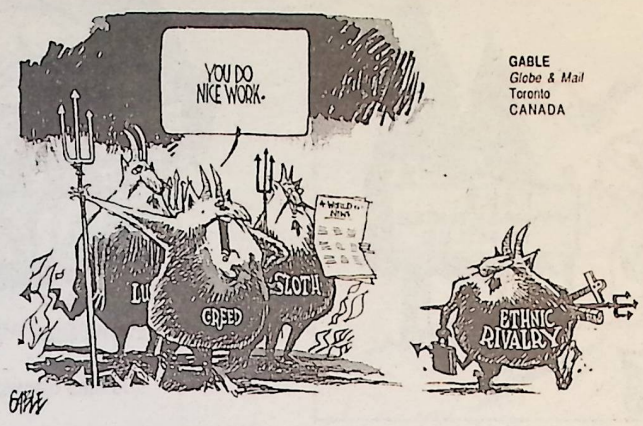

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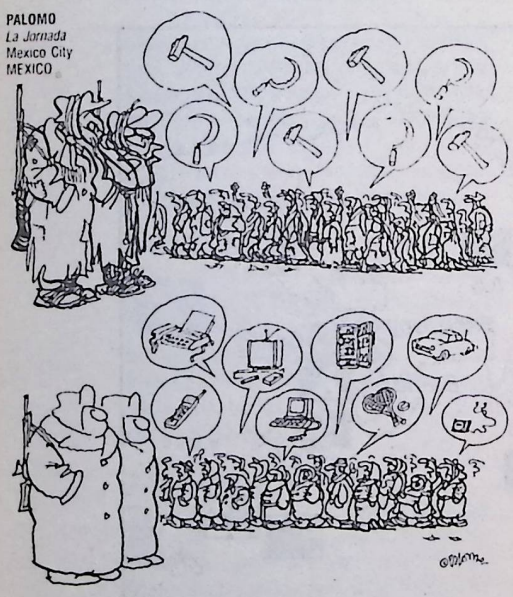

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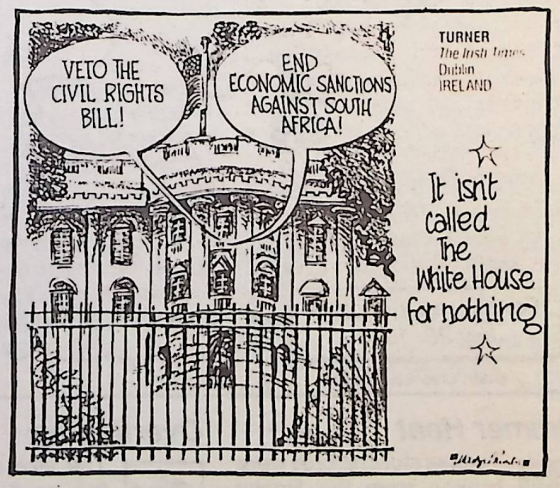
MEXICO



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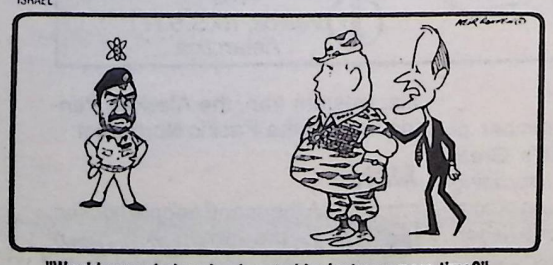
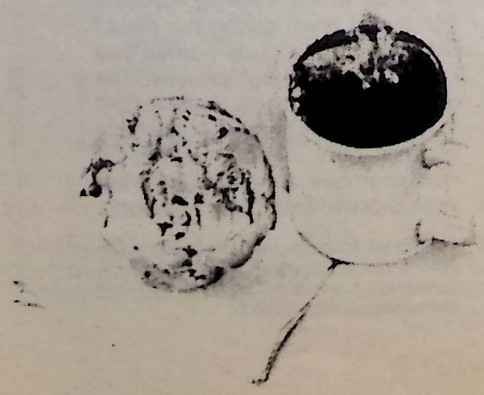


"Would you mind saying boo to him just one more time?"

When the Sun rises over the Valley



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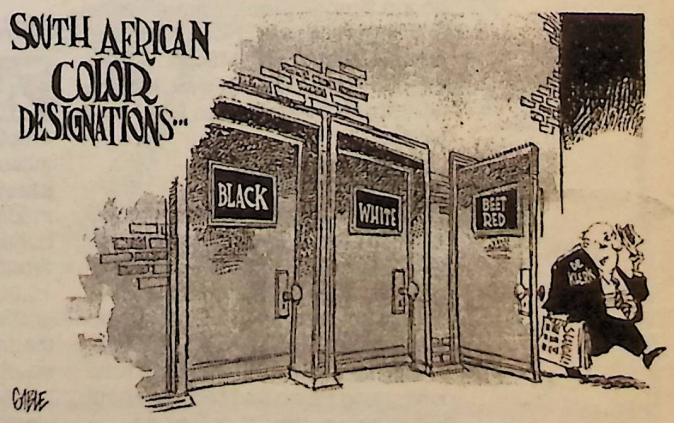

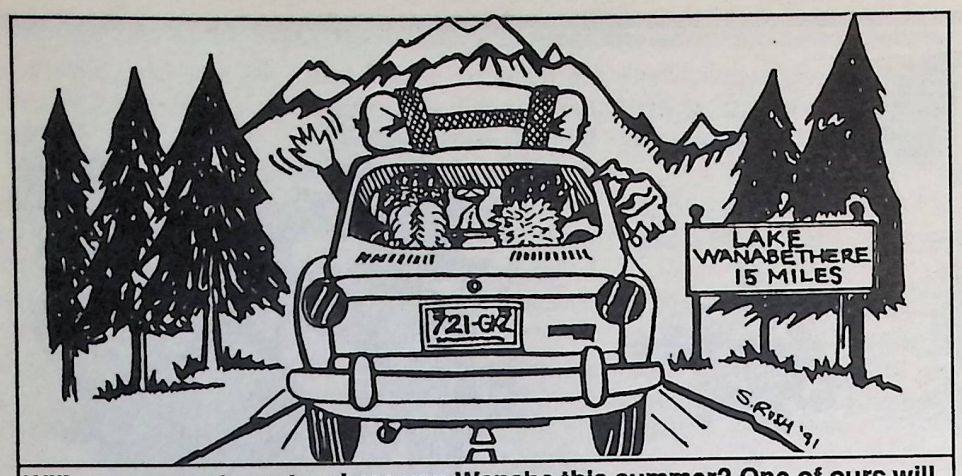

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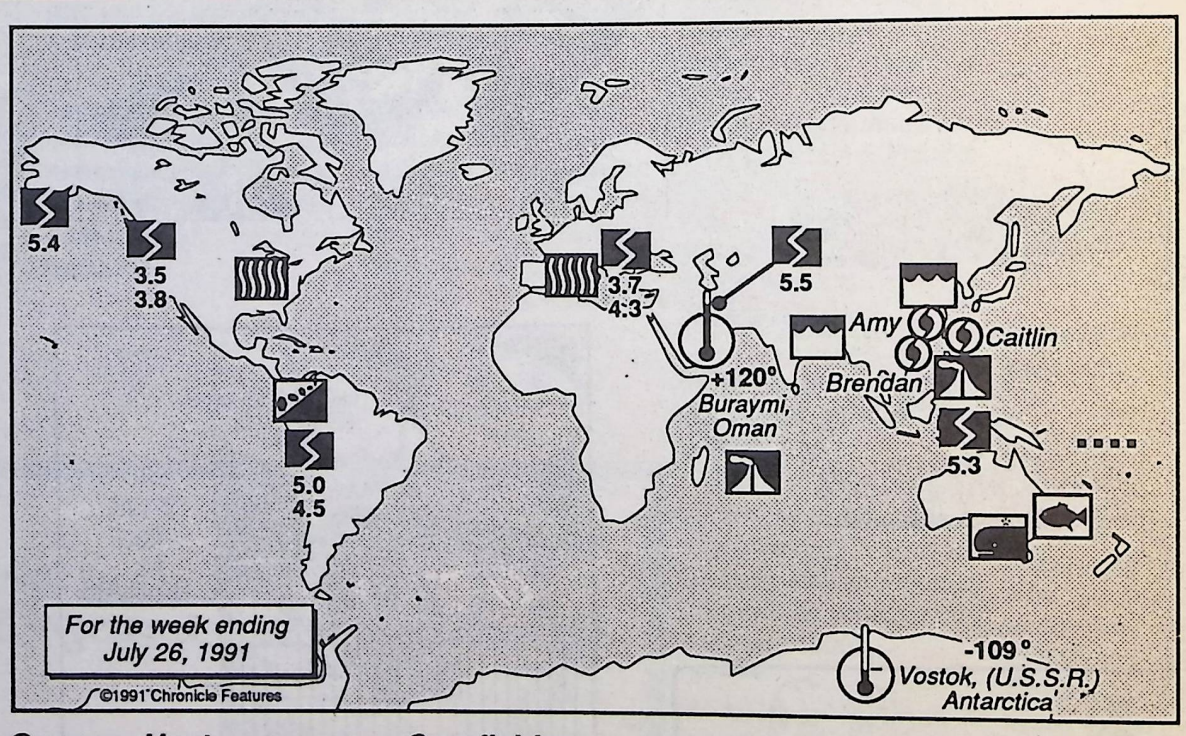
EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman



Floods

Millions of Chinese made homeless by some of the worst floods in Chinese history are without sufficient food or proper shelter. The Shanghai *Wenhui Bao* newspaper reported that diseases such as hepatitis and typhoid were on the rise in flood-stricken eastern China as a result of contaminated water. Water levels of rivers and lakes receded further in the worst affected provinces of Anhui and Jiangsu as the persistent rain belt moved further north.

In contrast, a worsening drought in Hunan province has forced the government to mobilize three million people to combat the effects of a worsening drought. Many rivers, lakes, and reservoirs have run dry across the province.

Monscon deluges in Bangladesh have wiped out thousands of acres of rice crops and left a million homeless. More than 100 people have died since waters surged on the Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers.

Tropical Storms

Typhoon Amy, the seventh to strike China this year, pounded the rice-bowl provinces of Guangdong, Jiangxi, and Fujian, ravaging agriculture and driving thousands from their homes. At least 99 people perished from the storm's high winds and floods. Typhoon Brendan took a more southerly course, skirting Hong Kong and killing one person in Macao. Yet another storm, Caitlin, was moving northward toward Japan late in the week.

Landslide

Rescuers pulled 51 bodies from a landslide that struck a road in southwestern Colombia. At least 10 vehicles, including buses, trucks, and an ambulance, were crushed when part of a mountainside collapsed on a road connecting Pasto and Mocoa, about 350 miles southwest of Bogota.

Summer Heat

Temperature records were broken from the Rocky Mountains to New England as much of the U.S. sweltered under the hottest weather of the summer. In southern Europe, several days of hot weather were blamed for the deaths of at least 70 people in Spain and central Italy.

Volcanoes

Mount Pinatubo continued to rock the Philippines with nearly 100 tremors and eruptions of ash that soared four miles into the sky. Heavy rains from passing typhoon Brendan unleashed mudflows up to 20 feet deep that buried 700 houses in eight villages around the mountain, and forced 10,000 people to flee their homes.

Piton de la Fournaise Volcano on the Indian Ocean island of Reunion erupted with a stream of lava on July 19. An eruption in April lasted three weeks.

Overfishing

The size and number of fish on Australia's Great Barrier Reef is declining dramatically, according to an official survey. A poll of 1,000 sports fishermen between Cairns and Rockhampton showed that the average weight of certain species has been halved in the past 10 years. The Queensland Fish Management Authority is considering an unprecedented bag limit for recreational fishing in reef waters—which earns Australia $780 million in tourist revenue each year.

Earthquakes

At least 12 people were killed when the stronger of two quakes flattened most of the homes in a village near two volcanoes in southern Peru. Sabancaya and Misti volcanoes, 600 miles south of Lima, have become increasingly active during the past year.

Earth movements were also felt in Indonesia's Aceh province, Romania, western Iran, the Alaskan Peninsula, and the Pacific Northwest.

Mates

A thousand people flocked to the South Australian coast near Adelaide to watch a trio of southern right whales in a spectacular mating display. Marine biologist Ian Milne said two 45-foot whales started coupling in shallow waters 50 yards offshore. The noise attracted a second male, which circled the couple. "He was waiting for the first to finish, but got impatient and joined them during the night," Milne said. "It's quite normal you know, they're very promiscuous." The southern right whale was almost hunted to extinction off Australia in the last century, but increasing numbers have appeared in recent years to breed and nurse their young.

Additional Sources: *Hong Kong Royal Observatory, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.*

EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

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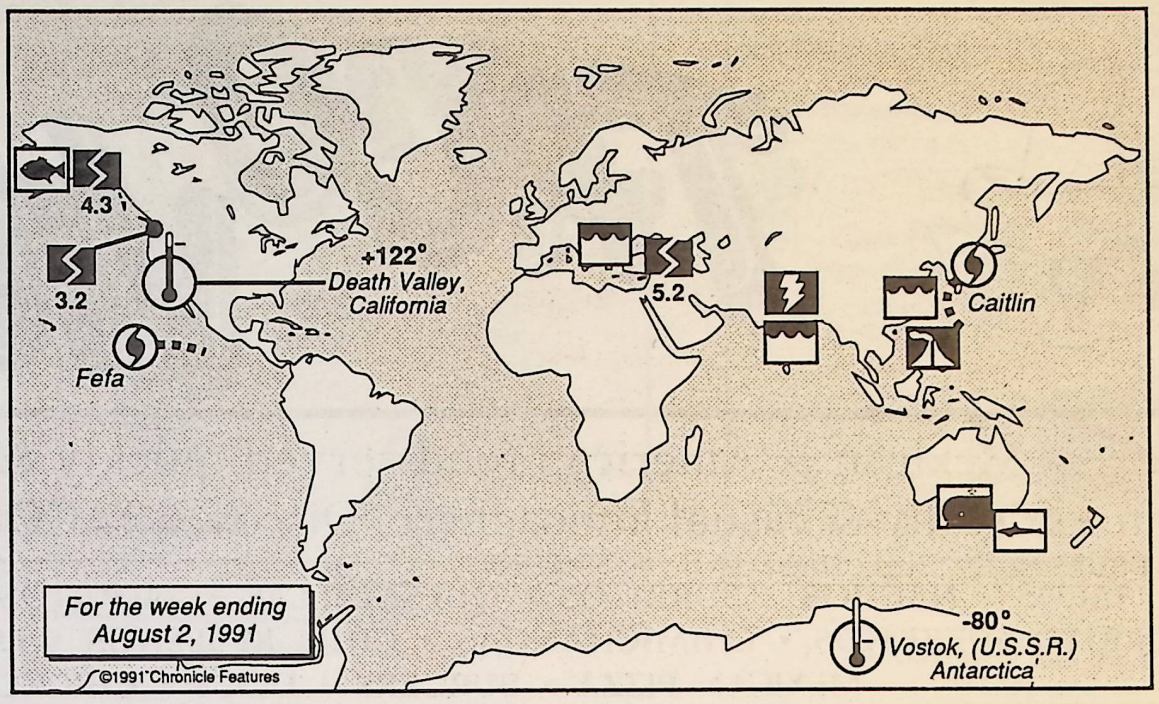


Flood Season

As the floodwaters slowly recede from eastern China's worst inundations in decades, the country's leaders have called on people to fight the "second battle" against epidemics that are now threatening the displaced survivors. Two million homeless people are camping by roadsides in appalling sanitary conditions in a virtual river of excrement, according to a visiting French doctor. Cases of highly resistant and fast-spreading malaria and hemorrhagic hepatitis have already been reported. Polio, typhoid, and various intestinal diseases are also a threat.

Soldiers and rescue workers searched through six flood-ravaged villages in central India where more than 1,500 people were missing and hundreds were feared drowned. Some survivors shivered in treetops for more than a day, waiting to be rescued. The flood swept away an entire three-story building where 150 people had taken shelter from the incessant downpour.

Torrential rains in Romania's Moldavia region triggered flash floods that killed more than 100 people and swamped two villages. Prime Minister Petre Roman announced, after he toured the disaster area, that 3,000 homes and four major bridges had been destroyed or damaged.

Earthquakes

Twenty people were killed and 100 homes destroyed when a temblor struck two villages in the Iraqi Kurdistan province of Erbil. Earth movements were also felt in southern Alaska and around Seattle.

Lightning Deaths

Four boys playing soccer in the foothills of the Himalayas were struck and killed instantly by a single bolt of lightning. Four other boys were injured in the village 50 miles south of Katmandu, Nepal.

Volcano

The Philippines' chief volcanologist said that he believes Mt. Pinatubo is nearly spent after numerous devastating eruptions, but the threat of mud and ash slides from the accumulated debris could last for years. During the week, heavy monsoon rains unleashed further mudflows that buried more than 3,000 homes and sent flood waters spilling into metropolitan Manila, killing at least 16 people.

Tropical Storms

Typhoon Caitlin brushed South Korea and western Japan, leaving two people dead and causing $6 million in damage, mainly in Korea. The storm destroyed 30 vessels, one bridge, and five stretches of low-lying roads.

Hurricane Fefa moved harmlessly over the open waters of the eastern tropical Pacific, packing maximum winds of 95 miles per hour.

Shark Slaughter

Japanese fishing practices came under fire after an Australian television crew filmed workers aboard one boat cutting the fins off sharks, then throwing the still-live bodies overboard. Shark fins are a prized delicacy in Japan, used to make a soup that is considered by some to be an aphrodisiac. One Japanese tuna boat in Tasmanian waters was said to be catching up to 500 sharks a night. Japanese television broadcast the Australian videotape on its main evening news, and quoted Japanese fisheries officials as saying the outrage reflected the "cultural differences" between the two countries.

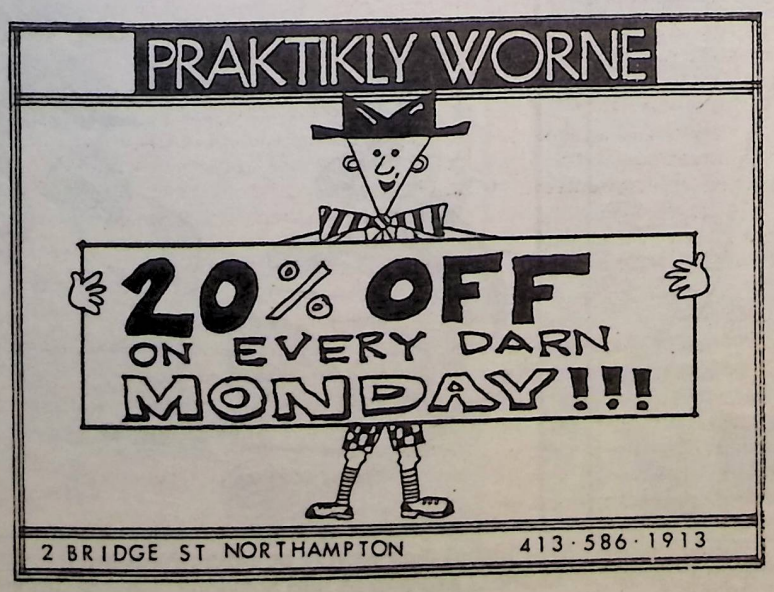
Fisherman's Dream

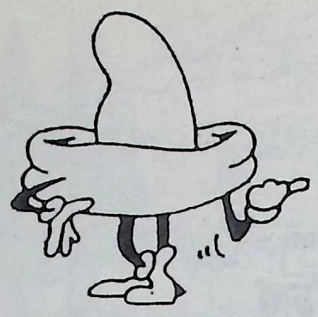
In one of the strangest fishing experiences ever witnessed in Alaska, thousands of people lined up on the Kenai Peninsula to net red salmon in a creek so clogged with fish that a catch was guaranteed. Some people netted as many as nine in one dip of the net. A state-sponsored red salmon breeding program was so successful that the fish returning to spawn this summer flooded into the creek on their way to spawning grounds. To prevent a glut of spawned-out rotting salmon carcasses from upsetting the ecological balance, officials scheduled twice-weekly net fishing, with a six-fish limit for any Alaskan resident.

Now Napping

Three whales, whose spectacular mating display drew thousands of spectators in Southern Australia, kept local inhabitants awake with loud snoring the night after the act. "It sounded like the whining of horses, only much louder," said a drowsy Victor Harbor resident.

***Additional Sources:** U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.*





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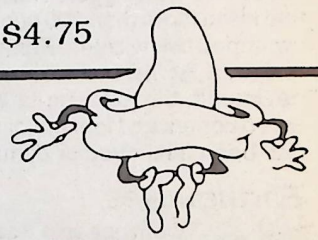
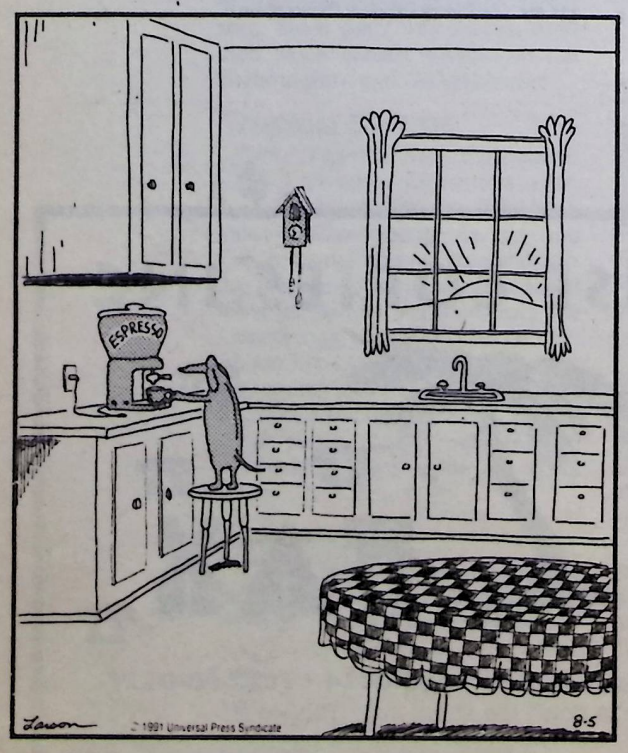
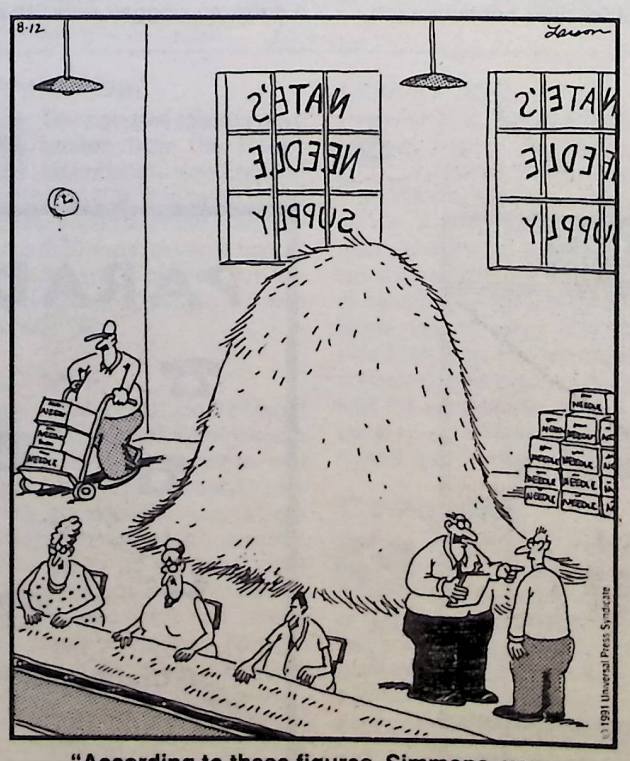


THE FAR SIDE

By Gary Larson

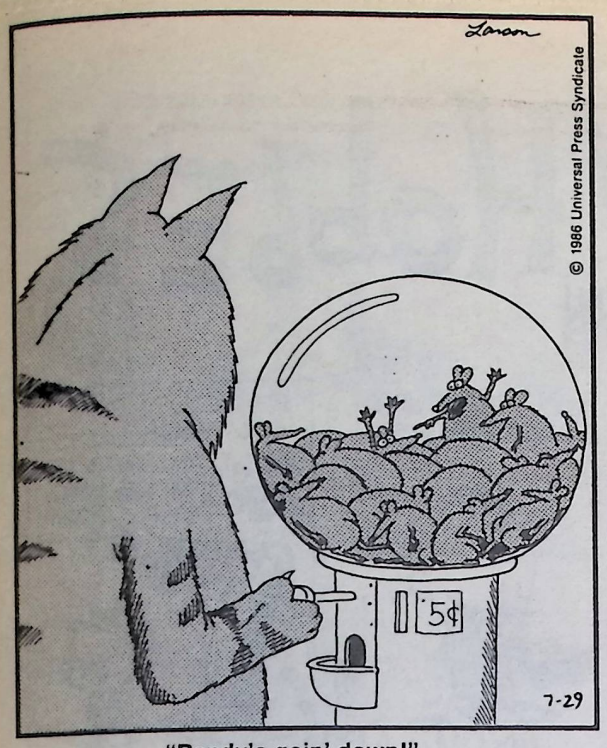


While their owners sleep, nervous little dogs prepare for their day.

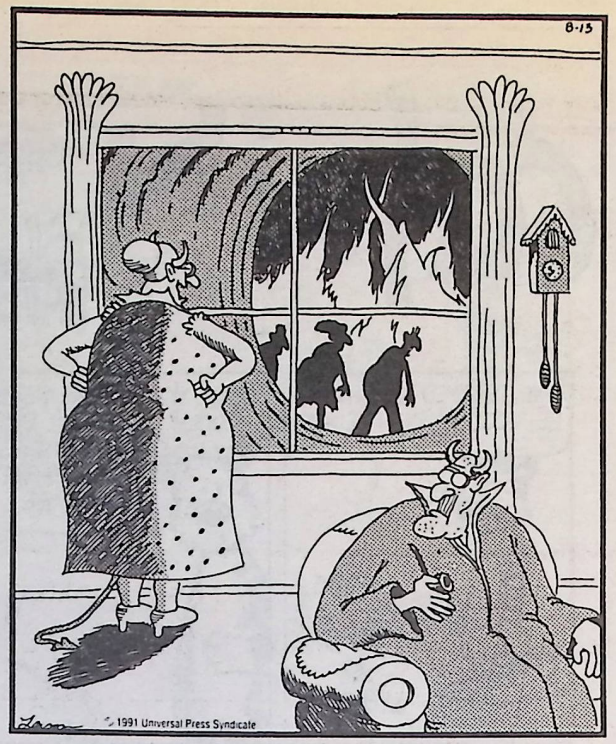


"According to these figures, Simmons, your department has lost another No. 2 Double A, and I want you to find it!"

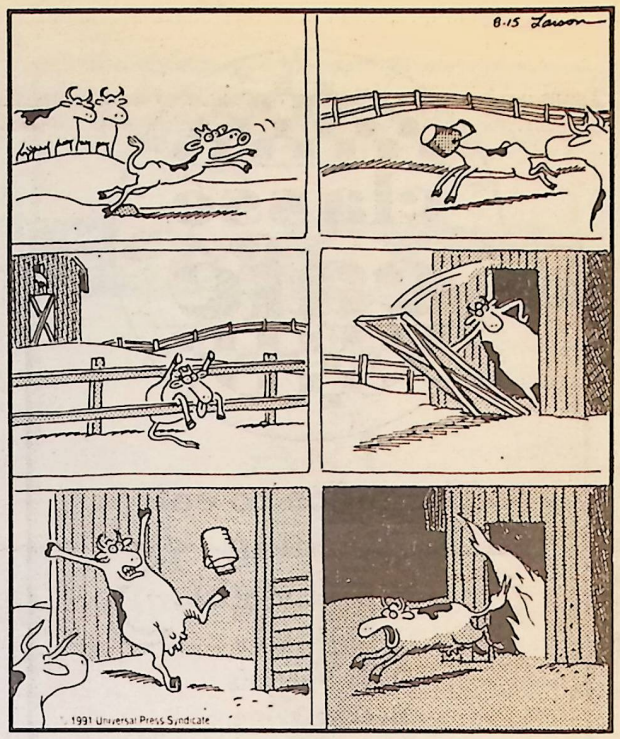
"Listen. You want to be extinct? You want them to shoot and trap us into oblivion? ... *We're* supposed to be the animals, so let's get back out there and *act* like it!"



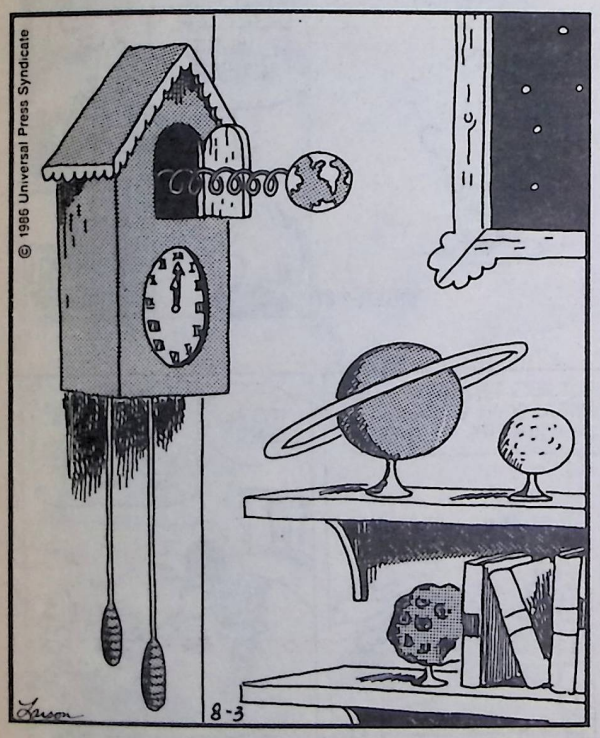
"Randy's goin' down!"



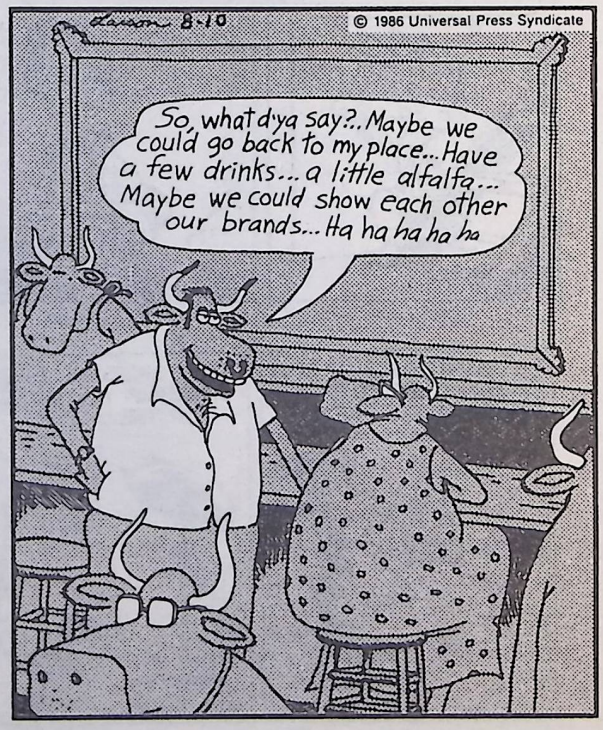
"Looks like another hot one, Pa."



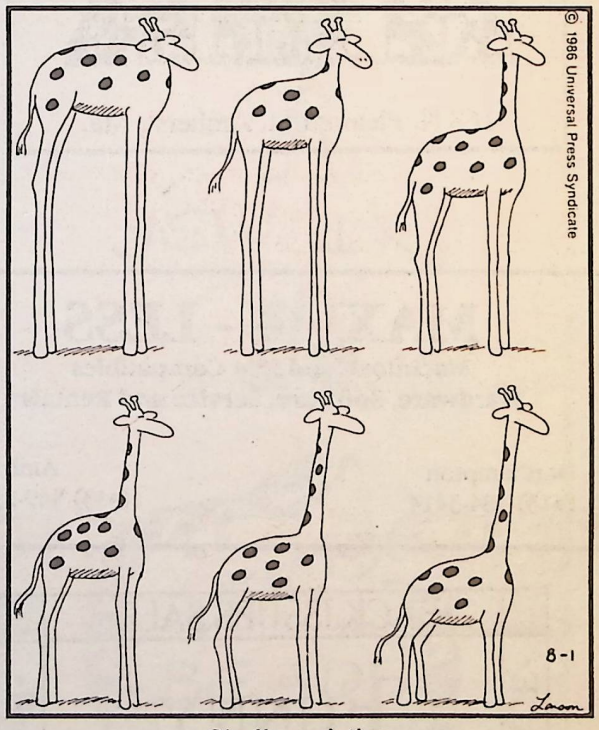
The life and times of Lulu, Mrs. O'Leary's ill-fated cow.



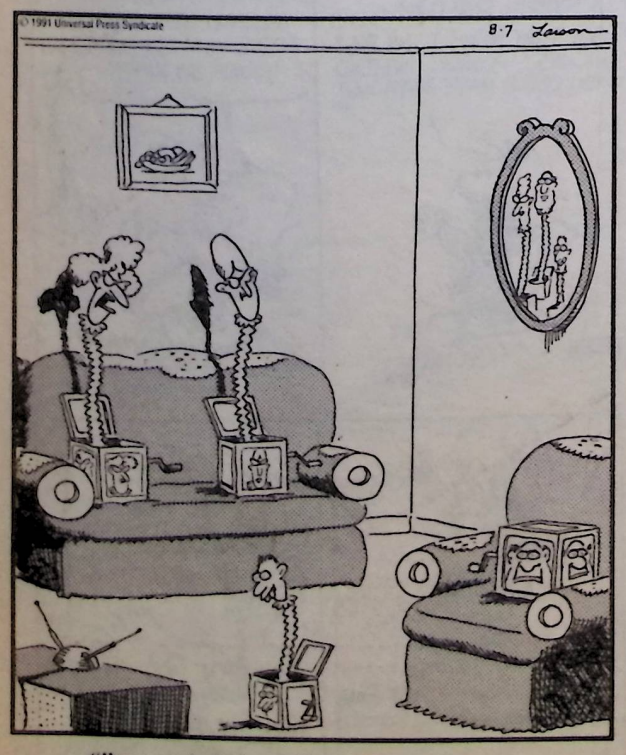
In God's den



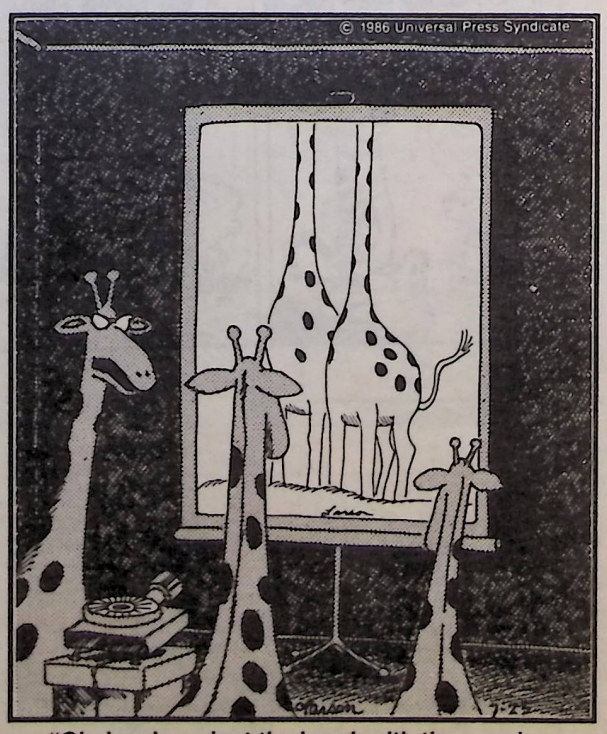
Cattle hustler



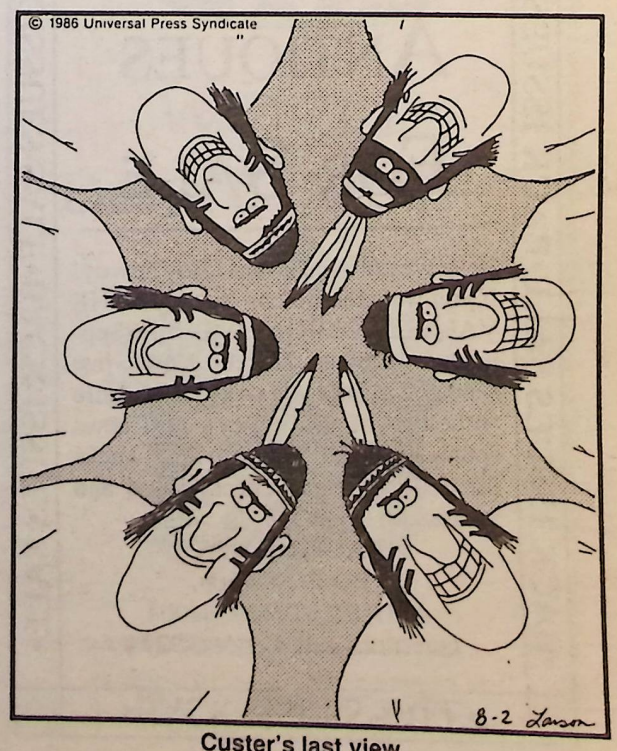
Giraffe evolution



"I'm worried about Frank these days. . . . It seems he just can't unwind."



"Oh, lovely — just the hundredth time you've managed to cut everyone's head off."



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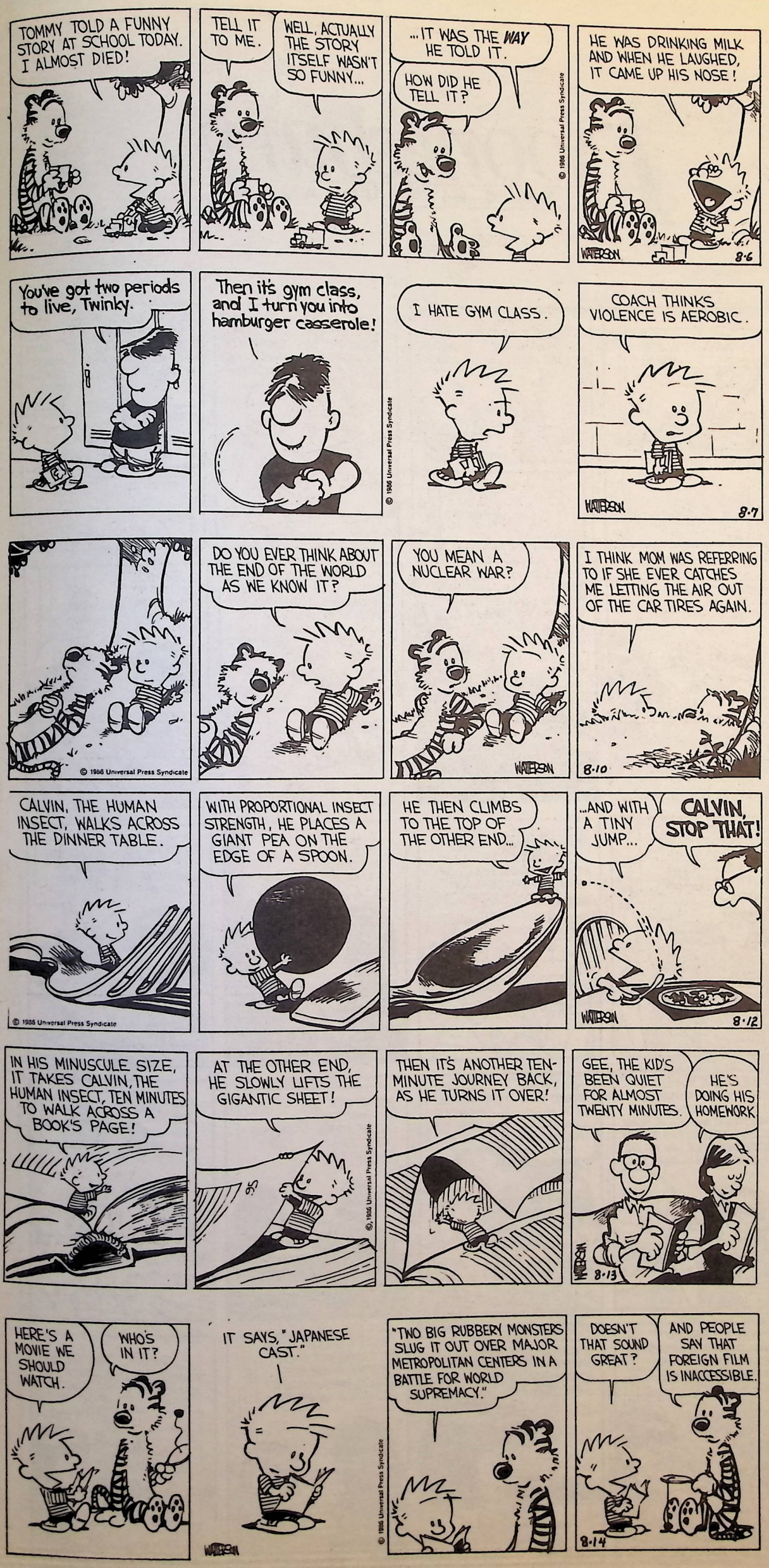
Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



KARAVAN

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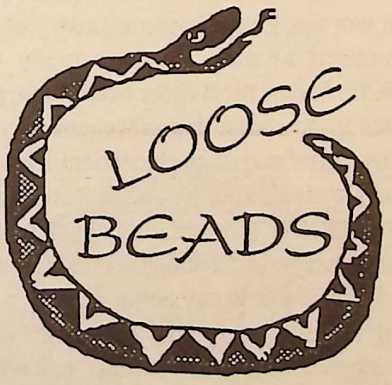

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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

Here is the synopsis of the forthcoming *Thelma and Louise 2: the Aftermath*. Saved by a sudden updraft of wind as they soar over the Grand Canyon, the women glide to safety on the Far Side of the gorge. Tired of the chase the two turn themselves in and, much to their surprise and delight, find themselves national heroines.

Bringing them to trial on charges of murder, armed robbery, property destruction and embarrassing a police officer, the prosecution soon realizes that because of the publicity it is impossible to find a jury that has not heard of the case. The only people in America who have never read a paper or watched the news on TV have already served on the Oliver North or William Kennedy Smith juries.. Allowed to plead guilty to littering, drinking while driving and leaving the scene of a crime, T&L are each sentenced to one year in prison.

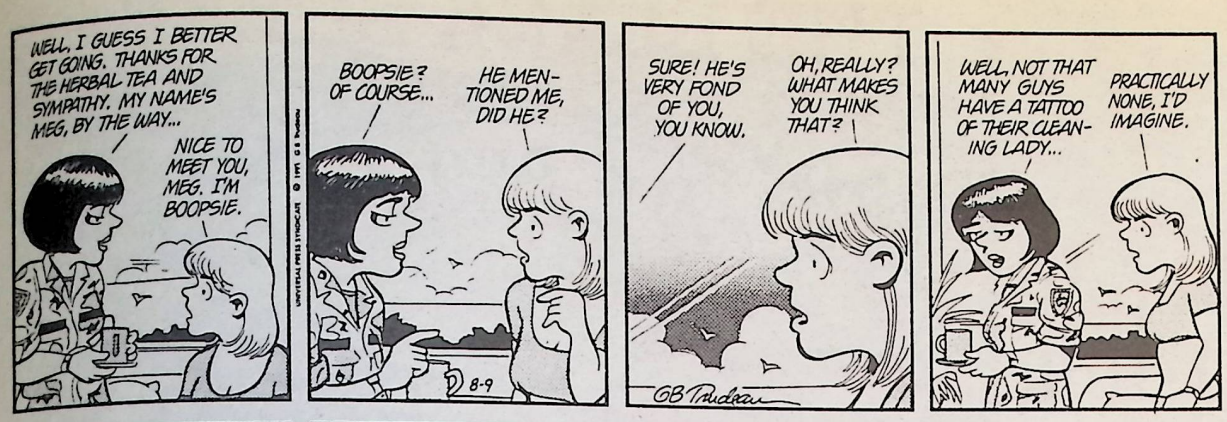
On their release they are arrested in Florida under an archaic law that makes it illegal for women to be poor role models. It seems that all the hype in the papers about them and the resultant adulation they received from men, women and children following their first escapade frightened the folks in power into thinking that T&L were a menace (Womenance?) to the status quo. Again they are forced to stand trial. As evidence, the prosecution drags up the columns, articles and editorials that had appeared when the movie was first released. All had ranted and raved about how horrible it was that women, given the same lousy plot lines and stock situations as men, would actually resort to VIOLENCE . Seems the writers would have preferred these ladies to do something more genteel . Perhaps become coy, flirtatious or co-dependent and accept the verbal and physical brutality while "understanding" that the poor abusive guy was really just a product of a childhood where boys do not get good role models so he really couldn't know any better.

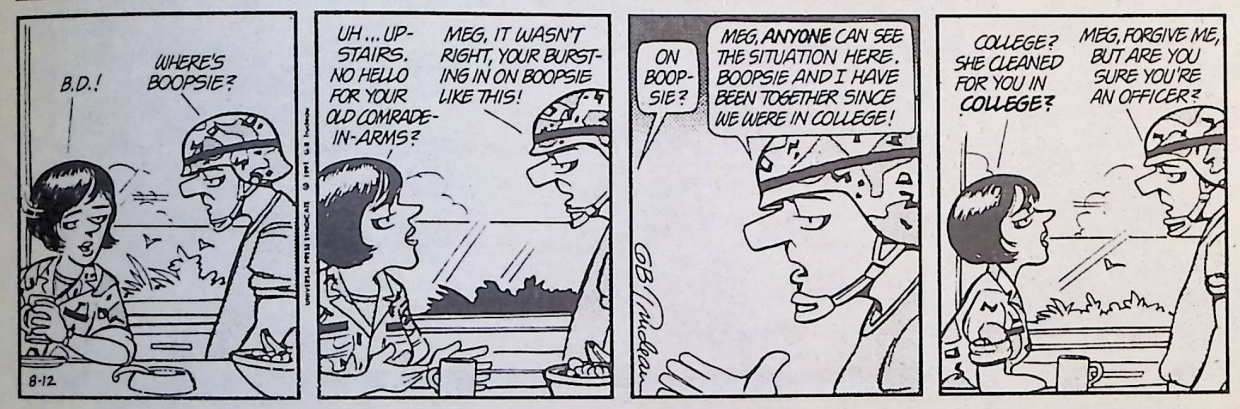
T&L defend themselves by using the "hypocrisy defense." Each commentator is called to the stand and asked the same questions: "Would this brouhaha have occurred if, instead of shooting the guy themselves, they had called in either the Equalizer, the Terminator or that creepy kid from Home Alone to shoot the rat?" and "Would any notice at all have been taken if they had dressed as Ninja Turtles or Freddy Kreuger before they offed the guy?" The barely audible "No" to each question ensures that T & L are freed.

They return home to Arkansas to begin a syndicated TV reality show called America's Most Insensitive. Within a year they are elected to Congress, a position they decide to job- share so they can keep the TV show going. Their influence in Washington grows and grows as their innate common sense and overt desire to have fun captures the mood of the people. The movie ends as T&L celebrate the passage of the ERA, thus setting the stage for Thelma & Louise 3: The Presidential Years.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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